

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

March 6, 2007

6:00 P. M.

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, March 6, 2007, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Lynn Strom, Finance/Budget Manager
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kneece and the invocation was given by Councilman Hudson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes

The motion to approve the February 6, 2007 Minutes of the Regular County Council Meeting, as presented, was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

There were no comments on any of the reports.

Public Hearings

Public hearings were held on the following ordinances for the council to receive written and/or oral comments from the public on the ordinances:

Ordinance No. 06-07-586, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No.86-248, General Requirements for Road Acceptance."

No comments received, written or oral, concerning Ordinance No. 06-07-586.

Ordinance No. 06-07-587, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2007, or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, of Edgefield

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County, South Carolina, in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$390,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bond; Authorizing the County Administrator or His Lawfully Authorized Designee to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.”

No comments received, written or oral, concerning Ordinance No. 06-07-589.

Ordinance No. 06-07-589, “An Ordinance Adopting a Revised Fire Services Contract for Fire Departments in Edgefield County to Provide for Mutual Aid, Distribution of Funding and Other Matters Related Thereto.”

Councilman Kitchens stated that it is his understanding that the property tax has not been changed. We are still using property tax and the most of the tax is remaining within the district. The only change is in vehicle tax and that portion is contributed to some of the other fire departments to bring them to a \$45,000 minimum. The fire board initiated this revised contract and presented it to council. **There were no further comments.**

Ordinances

The second reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-588, “An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Edgefield County, SC” passed with a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens. Motion carried unanimously.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-589, “An Ordinance Adopting a Revised Fire Services Contract for Fire Departments in Edgefield County to Provide for Mutual Aid, Distribution of Funding and Other Matters Related Thereto” passed with a motion made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright to accept the revised ordinance. Motions carried unanimously.

Third and final reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-586, “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No.86-248, General Requirements for Road Acceptance” was approved with a motion made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright to accept third reading of Ordinance No 06-07-586 as amended. Motions carried unanimously.

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Third and final reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-587, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2007, or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, of Edgefield County, South Carolina, in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$390,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bond; Authorizing the County Administrator or His Lawfully Authorized Designee to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto" was approved with a motion made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, if this saves the county money, \$9,000 or more. Motion carried unanimously.

Assuming a 3.9% interest rate, Edgefield County would save \$14,351.37 over three years by refinancing these bonds. Attorney fees are estimated to be \$3,500-\$5,000, so our savings should be between \$9,350 and \$10,850.

Council expressed concern over whether or not the county would actually save any money by this refinancing. The Administrator stated that the worst case scenario it will save the county \$9,350 overall, if the attorney fees are the maximum amount that were quoted (fees between \$3,500-5,000). The fees are based on how much work they do, how many times we call them, etc. There are certain legal requirements and the attorneys have to certify that the county has met all of the legal requirements is why we have to go through a bond attorney (only three firms in the state in this capacity).

If the interest rates go up, which we have no control over, and it is not a savings to the county then we will not continue. The date this was started (months ago) the rates were averaging around 3.9%.

No Resolutions

New Business

In the absence of Mrs. Donna Livingston, Director of the Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce, the Administrator brought before council a funding request of \$1,000 concerning the filming of the ETV Road Show in May of this year. The Town of Edgefield contributed \$1,000.

The Educational TV Network of South Carolina will be in Edgefield on May 18th. There will be three hours of live broadcast from the square in Edgefield and prior to that they will be filming segments around the county of various topics. It will air on ETV during that week and they will re-broadcast it again later. The information ETV provided the county, they will be spending over a \$100,000 in total expenses producing this show here in Edgefield.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve the funding request of \$1,000 to the ETV Road Show. Motion carried unanimously. This will be taken from the contingency account.

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Bids/Northside Park Fence

The following bids were considered for a backstop and partial fencing at the Northside Park:

Aiken and Augusta Fence	\$3,196.33
Security Fence	\$3,874.30
Boyd Fence Company	\$4,281.00

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the low bid of \$3,196.33 submitted by Aiken and Augusta Fence. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Kitchens asked for the floor at this time. He stated there are many citizens in this county out picking up trash on roads, helping to keep the county clean. Mr. Kitchens would like to get a list from Ernie Church (Clemson Extension) of the citizens and have the council send them a letter of appreciation. They are doing a job in the county that there is no way in the world to hire people to do this particular thing. Mr. Kitchens put this into the form of a motion and the motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously. This is the Adopt-a-Highway program. The Administrator will speak with Mr. Church.

Other Business

Howard Gibson

Mr. Gibson informed council members of the donation of a water truck to the county from the Town of Edgefield, which is needed. The value of the truck is \$14,000.00. The donation of the truck is greatly appreciated and will certainly be an asset when jobs are done on small roads and at the parks. The town is replacing this one with a new one under a grant.

Next, Mr. Gibson announced that he has accepted a position with the City of Rome, Georgia, as director of Building Inspection and Building Official. His last day with Edgefield County will be March 23rd. First day of employment will be March 26th. He stated that he appreciated the opportunity he has had to serve the people of Edgefield County. He thanked council and the staff for their help during his employment.

Chairman Kneece thanked Howard for a “job well done” and that he has been a good employee.

Recreation Board Vacancy

Chairman Kneece announced that Councilman Dorn’s term on the Recreation Commission Board has ended and that Councilman Hudson has agreed to serve on this board. At Mr. Kneece’s recommendation of this appointment, Councilman

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Kitchens seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

No Old Business

Administrator's Report

Mr. Pettigrew thanked Howard for "all of the help you have given me for the four months I have been administrator, and also for your service over your five years to the people of this county. I know your title was Building and Planning Official but you did much more than that. I wanted to thank you and we wish you well in your new endeavors."

A few things we are still working on are:

The appeals in the assessor's office are down to sixty three (63) that have to meet with the assessor and seventeen (17) are scheduled to go before the board of appeals. Those are moving right along and hopefully will be finished within the next four to six weeks.

Budget requests have been received from department heads, elected and appointed officials. We will be working on a draft budget for council prior to the March 20th budget work session.

Yesterday I attended a rural summit in North Charleston sponsored by the Department of Commerce and received good information concerning rural communities and how we can improve them.

Daylight savings time is beginning at 2:00 A. M. March 11th (Sunday). Our road crew generally changes its working hours during this time. On Monday, March 12th, their hours will be 7:00 A. M. until 5:30 P. M. Monday through Thursday. They can get more work done with these hours.

No guests or comments from the public.

Claims approved as follows;

PAYROLL	2/29/07 thru 2/11/07
Regular.....	\$202,928.75
PAYROLL	2/12/07 thru 2/25/07
Regular.....	\$203,776.69
General Operating.....	\$946,694.48

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No executive session.

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. A budget work session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20th at 6:00 and the next regular meeting of council will be held Tuesday, April 3, 2007.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

